

MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ACTION  
GROUP ON CANADIAN MINING IN LATIN AMERICA  
AND OF THE CONTINENTAL ACTION NETWORK ON  
INTERNATIONAL MINING ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY OF DECISIONS

The meeting of the Community Action Group on Canadian Mining in Latin America and of the Continental Action Network on International Mining Activities took place in Lima, Peru (February 24-26, 1997), and it was followed by a visit to La Oroya and Cerro de Pasco mining zones (February 27-March 1, 1997). Among the participants, there were representatives from several NGOs from the South and the North, research institutions, the academic sector, unions, women's groups and communities affected by mining operations (list attached).

*ADOPTION OF A COMMUNITY DECISION-MAKING MODEL*

1. The Community-based Decision Making Model (the "Model") was unanimously accepted. Participants agreed that the "Model" will be a most helpful and effective tool to empower communities to fully participate in informed decision-making processes and to influence mining corporations into developing socially responsible corporate practices, to ensure the sustainable human development of the affected communities.
2. The "Model's" collective approach to resolving problems, instead of one of confrontation, was accepted by the majority of participants. It was agreed that the decision-making process must be flexible and that the key players (mining corporations and the shareholders, the labor force, the three levels of government - local, provincial, and national- and the residents of the communities) have to recognize that cooperation, understanding, and a common purpose are absolutely necessary.
3. The "Model's" primary components are three-prong: to strengthen the organizational capabilities of the communities; to develop a permanent process of consultation and communication between the communities and the mining corporations; and to ensure that the community is able to make informed decisions.
4. The organization and methodology of the "Model", it was suggested, had to be structured in such a way as to provide a practical and efficient working tool for the affected communities, but flexible enough as to be adapted to recognized diversities within each country and among the countries of the region. The "Model" will be readjusted to incorporate the suggestions forwarded by the participants and it will be tested, depending on the funds available, in several pilot communities. Once this phase is completed, the "Model" will be ready for its implementation throughout the region.
5. It was also agreed that the timing for the implementation of the "Model" was ripe, considering the increasing number of affected communities as well as the growing number of Canadian mining companies that are now operating in Latin America.

### *THE CONTINENTAL ACTION NETWORK ON INTERNATIONAL MINING ACTIVITIES*

1. It was decided to establish a Continental Action Network on International Mining Activities, in accordance with the Saskatoon Declaration of June 1996. The Continental Network will document the activities of Canadian mining corporations in the region and will constitute a mechanism for information sharing, policy coordination and coordinated advocacy work. It will support the implementation of the Community-based Decision Making Model, providing information to the communities and NGO's involved in mining activities.
2. A prototype "Miningwatch" data base developed by the Environmental Mining Council of British Columbia was presented to the participants, and it was agreed that this important tool could serve as the basis for the Continental Network's mechanism for information gathering and sharing. A working group was established to raise funds and look into the ways the data base could be made available to the other members of the Continental Network.
3. Other technology options were considered (Internet, electronic bulletin, web page, etc.), including the possibility that communities affected by mining operations could have access to this strategic information, as well as to provide training in computers use, and electronic communications.
4. Participants recognized that the Continental Network will also be helpful in promoting the exchange of experiences between mining communities and between NGO's both in the North and in the South. The Centre for the Promotion of Mining of Bolivia (CEPROMIN, Centro para la Promocion Minera), was entrusted with the task of publishing a quarterly bulletin, to be distributed among the Latin American communities affected by mining. An electronic bulletin, prepared by Project Underground (USA), will facilitate the communication among the members of the Continental Network.
5. A Steering Committee was established, and its four members were appointed (two from the South and two from the North): Ivonne Ramos, Accion Ecologica of Ecuador; Jose de Echave, Instituto para el Desarrollo de la Pesca y la Minería -IPEMIN- of Peru; Myriam Cabrera, CoDevelopment Canada, and Nedjo Rogers, Environmental Mining Council of British Columbia, Canada. The Steering Committee will ensure the fluid communication among the members; will identify sources of financing; will support the on-going work of the Continental Network; will coordinate its work with that of the working groups; will propose a set of guidelines for the admission of new members; and it will present a draft workplan. It was understood that major decisions will be taken back by the Steering Committee to the broader group.
6. The Continental Network's work will be developed in three priority areas: a) information gathering and sharing (data base, technology, information on mining industry and specific Canadian corporations, on social, cultural and environmental impacts, and on campaigns); b) to provide training (on the impact of mining operations, on negotiating techniques, on environmental monitoring and on gender issues, and to promote exchange visits for researchers and academics); and c) to facilitate access to research information on specific areas, including the possibility that communities may have access to independent expertise (compile a list of experts, prepare training materials, address health/environmental problems, examine the role of international financial organizations). Several Working Groups were established to deal with some of these issues, particularly the data base, training, negotiating techniques, gender issues, and the establishment of contacts with academic institutions and experts.

7. It was recognized that the viability of the Continental Network will depend on its capacity to raise funds for further work. The participants from the North agreed to explore some venues and to report back to the broader group.

8. The Steering Committee will consider proposals for the site for the next meeting, that could take place next year, again depending on the funds available. Some participants offered their countries/groups could host it (Costa Rica and Canada, among them).

### *WORKING GROUPS*

#### 1. DATABASE

MEMBERS: Environmental Mining Council of BC  
Ipemin  
Accion Ecologista Costarricense

FUNCTIONS: - To raise funds  
- To identify the type of information that will constitute the core of the data base  
- To translate the information provided by the other members of the Continental Network  
- To develop guidelines for information selection, update, validation, as well as protocols for access and copyrights.

#### 2. TRAINING

MEMBERS: Canadian Environmental Law Association  
Ipemin  
Accion Ecologica

FUNCTIONS: - To identify areas where training is most urgently needed as well as the type of training materials that are required  
- To identify methods for the development of training packages  
- To help organize workshops for the implementation and dissemination of the Community Decision-making Model among the communities affected by mining

#### 3. NEGOTIATION

MEMBERS: CoDevelopment Canada  
Ipemin (working with Peruvian Mining Unions)  
"Filomenas"

- FUNCTIONS:**
- To gather information about negotiating techniques and to develop packages of training materials for a workshop on negotiations
  - To gather information about the experiences of other groups (unions, indigenous populations in Canada, etc.) and about their negotiating strategies
  - To establish contacts with other groups and NGOs that may have experience in negotiations with mining companies (such as the Centre for Environmental Law and Natural Resources or the Observatorio de Conflictos Ambientales)

#### 4. GENDER

**MEMBERS:** Cepromin (Women of)  
Movimiento de Mujeres Maria Elena Cuadra  
"Filomenas"

- FUNCTIONS:**
- To ensure that this will be a priority area for the work of the Continental Network
  - To identify ways in which mining operations are affecting women throughout the region
  - To help develop workshops on negotiation techniques and leadership for women
  - To help develop training materials

#### 5. INFORMATION BULLETINS

**MEMBERS:** Cepromin  
Project Underground

**EDITORIAL BOARD:** Ipemin  
Aeco  
Accion Ecologica  
Cepromin  
Project Underground

- FUNCTIONS:**
- To publish two bulletins. A printed bulletin will be distributed among the mining communities in the region and an electronic bulletin will facilitate the communication among the members of the Continental Network
  - To prepare a budget proposal for each bulletin, including costs for publishing, distribution, and translation services
  - To coordinate with the members of the Continental Network the materials (stories, news, campaigns information) that will be included in each issue

## 6. RESEARCH

MEMBERS: Accion Ecologica  
 Suco Peru  
 Cuso Canada  
 Environmental Mining Council of BC  
 Experimental University of Guyana

FUNCTIONS: - To gather information about on-going research activities related to mining  
 - To establish contacts with independent experts in the areas where mining operations have an impact (health, environment, labor practices, etc)  
 - To compile a list of experts, that will be integrated into the data base of the Continental Network  
 - To explore ways of collaboration with academic institutions and the scientific community  
 - To identify ways by which communities could benefit from independent expertise as well as ways by which costs could be shared.

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
*FEBRUARY 24-MARCH 1, 1997*  
LIMA, PERU

NAME	ORGANIZATION
1. CESAR MOSQUERA	IPEMIN, PERU
2. JOSE DE ECHAVE	IPEMIN, PERU
3. JOSEFINA ULLOA	MOV. MUJERES, NICARAGUA
4. IVONNE RAMOS	ACCION ECOLOGICA, ECUADOR
5. GERARD COFFEY	ACCION ECOLOGICA, ECUADOR
6. SONIA CORDOVA	ACCION ECOLOGICA, ECUADOR
7. IVONNE YANEZ	ACCION ECOLOGICA, ECUADOR
8. PEDRO MARIO BO MORENO	CEPROMIN, BOLIVIA
9. FREDDY VARGAS	AECO, COSTA RICA
10. JIM RADER	CODEVELOPMENT CANADA
11. MYRIAM CABRERA	CODEVELOPMENT CANADA
12. ROBERTO BAZZANI	INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH CENTRE, CANADA
13. COLEEN LITTLEJOHN	SAVE THE CHILDREN, COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR NICARAGUA
14. SHANNA LANGDON	PROJET UNDERGOUND
15. ALAN YOUNG	ENVIRONMENTAL MINING COUNCIL, CANADA

NAME	ORGANIZATION
16. KEN TRAYNOR	CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION, CANADA
17. RAMANI NADARAJAH	CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION, CANADA
18. DARIO BERMUDEZ	NATIONAL EXPERIMENTAL UNIVERSITY OF GUAYANA, VENEZUELA
19. ELENA ALVARADO	CUSO, PERU
20. MAXIMO ATENCIO	LEADER, COMMUNITY OF RANCAS, PERU
21. ILIANA ROBLES CHAMORRO	COMMUNITY OF RANCAS, PERU
22. PAUL BOUSQUET	RADIO CANADA/ SUCO
23. BRENDAN TOBIN	ENVIRONMENTAL AND INDIGENOUS ISSUES
24. MELIDA CANCHANYA	ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATORS NETWORK, LA OROYA, PERU
25. CHRISTIAN RIVAS	ICEM, PERU
26. PATRICIA AMAT Y LEON	"FILOMENA" WOMEN'S GROUP, PERU